

SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS.

During the month of December the following meetings of the San Francisco County Medical Society were held:

Section on Medicine, Tuesday, December 6, 1910.

- 1—Presentation of Case, Wm. C. Voorsanger.
- 2—Demonstration of Two Cases, Milton Abrahamson. Discussed by Drs. McClenahan, Welty, Hyman, Voorsanger, Abrahamson.
- 3—Presentation of Cases of Leutic Joint Troubles, Samuel J. Hunkin.
- 4—Presentation of Case, Cullen F. Welty.

Annual Meeting, Tuesday, December 13, 1910.

- 1—President's Annual Address, Langley Porter.
- 2—Secretary's Report, René Bine.
- 3—Reports of Committees.
 - a—Finance Committee.
 - b—Committee on Medical Ethics.
 - c—Executive Committee.
 - d—Committee on Public Health.
 - e—Committee on Library and Publications.
 - f—Committee on Admissions.
 - g—Milk Commission.
 - h—Committee on Necrology.
 - i—Committee on Poliomyelitis.
 - j—Committee on Contract Practice.
- 4—A Preliminary Report on the Use of 606, Howard Morrow. Discussed by Drs. Keck, Houston, Morrow.

Section on Surgery, Tuesday, December 20, 1910.

- 1—A Brief Consideration of the Surgical Treatment of Hyperthyroidism, Wallace I. Terry. Discussed by Drs. Rixford, Farnum, Rothganger, Terry.
- 2—Muscle Plastic for Incontinent Sphincter Ani, with Demonstration of Patient, Alfred Newman. Discussed by Drs. Zobel, Brunn, Rixford, Sherman, Hunkin, Newman.

During the month of December the following were elected to membership: R. B. Tupper, F. R. Mugler, R. L. Ochsner, E. I. Leavitt, W. C. Dawson, Chas. E. Taylor, L. A. Craig, R. McW. O'Neal, H. B. Graham, Bertram Stone, G. W. Hartman.

The following reports were among those made at the annual meeting:

President's Address.

By **LANGLEY PORTER, M. D., San Francisco.**

In rising to address you, fellow-members of the San Francisco County Medical Society, on this the last time that I can act as your chosen president, my first and most pleasant duty is to thank you for the confidence you have reposed in me and the honor you have conferred upon me through your Board of Directors, and for the courtesy and friendliness with which you, as a society in meeting assembled, have accepted the rulings of the chair. No matter what may eventuate in years to come, this will ever be to me the most memorable year of my life and one that I feel has obligated me to this Society for the rest of my life, and with deep emotion I thank you once more.

Not only are my thanks due to the members of the Society for their confidence, but to the members of the Board of Directors and of the different standing committees for their earnest, self-sacrificing devotion

to the interests of the Society. At no meeting of the Board was a quorum absent and there was rarely less than sixteen members present at meetings. You will hear from the chairmen of the different standing committees reports as to the work done.

The work of the Executive Committee has been of exceeding value to the members and I feel that the provision of section work and of weekly meetings has been a step of incalculable advantage to the health and vigor of the Society, and the support engendered and interest aroused is a tribute to the determination of the members to make the meetings really of mutual benefit.

Notable papers have been presented and case demonstrations made in so thorough and illuminating a manner that the members of the Society have no need to be ashamed of its programs when compared to those of any other medical society wherever situated. It is planned that in the future there shall be occasional exchanges of programs between this Society and our sister societies in Alameda and Los Angeles, each providing the other with a program.

You chose for your secretary a man, the administration of whose office speaks for itself. He accepted the office at a time when the effect of our losses of 1906 had come to bear most heavily in a quite considerable burden of debt. So much so, that plans for bonding and borrowing were considered by the directors and rejected. To-day, after a year of Dr. Bine's unremitting labor, the Society is out of debt, and with an increasing membership it would seem that the financial future is assured and that in the not too far distant future we will again have a reserve fund.

The directors have felt that the purposes of the Society were more than purely intellectual, and it was decided to attempt a stimulation of the social side of medical life. To this end a committee, with Dr. Kugeler as chairman, was appointed to arrange the first annual dinner, which was held with an attendance of one hundred and twenty members, about one-fourth of the whole membership. Those who came appeared to enjoy themselves, and those who stayed away I hope regretted it sufficiently to put in an appearance next year.

A committee headed by one, who through many years of active life has devoted much time and thought to the welfare of your Society, Dr. C. G. Kenyon, has been working on a plan for housing the Society in a fitting manner. This plan will be presented to you, and even if it should fail to receive your endorsement, the labors of Dr. Kenyon and his committee place the Society under great obligation.

The Public Health Committee, following the suggestion of the American Medical Association, have arranged for popular lectures on medical subjects and are planning for a mass meeting to urge, before the influential laymen of this city, the advantages to their nation, the state and especially to San Francisco, that will follow the adoption of the Owen Law or some other similar statute, and the establishment of a properly authorized national department of health.

As this has not been a year of activity of the State Legislature your Committee on Legislation has

marked time, but in view of the rumblings of threatening attack on the medical law, it behooves the Society to provide a strong committee for next year, one that will co-operate with the State Society Committee. The present state law places not only the admission of candidates to practice in the state in the hands of the State Board of Examiners, but also the police powers of the state in the enforcement of those provisions of the law directed to the abolition of illegal practice. By direction of the directors, the secretary of this Society forwarded to the secretary of the State Board of Examiners a list of persons advertising themselves in violation of the law as practitioners; as a result a number of these individuals have been proceeded against and a few have been convicted and fined in the police courts. It is, however, the unpleasant duty of the president to record that the Society has not in all instances had proper or courteous treatment from the state board. (Anthony-Ashbury.)

The conclusions reached by your Committee on Contract Practice have been formulated and are before you. The committee was appointed to consider the whole range of hospital, lodge and contract practice, but the field was found to be so wide that the deliberations were confined to the subject of hospital relations. The more important subject of lodge and contract practice has not been touched upon and will form the subject of an investigation by another committee another year.

The presence of an unusual number of cases of anterior poliomyelitis in the city was brought to the attention of the directors, and a special committee was appointed to investigate the matter and a preliminary report will be made to you to-night.

So much for the work done by the Society during the year. I would submit to the Society one or two proposals for the future:

First, that the precedent established in sending delegates to the State Society as an organized body instructed as to the policy and desire of the county body in relation to State Society matters, be followed. San Francisco pays to the State Society a large proportion of its income, and yet our influence in the past has been far less effective in the council and at annual meetings than other less numerous but better organized county societies.

Second, that our by-laws be amended to provide for the annual election of only one-third of the directors. It is to the advantage of the Society that a continuous administration policy be adopted. It is the experience of all governing bodies that better and more progressive administration can be had when boards of directors are not entirely changed each year.

Another wise amendment to the by-laws would be one setting forth the objects of the Society. Most county organizations have such a section which emphasizes the fact that the county society is an integral part of the State Medical Society, and through it of the American Medical Association. Our by-law is in fact of a somewhat truculent wording and details whom we would reject rather than those we seek, and would welcome as fellows in this Society. A by-law giving the Public Health Committee power to act in cases of urgency would be wise.

In matters of policy, I would urge that the Society give very full and careful consideration to the plan that has been proposed for an amalgamation of the libraries of this Society and the Lane Library of Stanford University. The trend of modern times is toward union, and this trend is nowhere more in evidence than in the matter of medical libraries. In Chicago a union of all the medical libraries has been made and these merged in the John Crerar Library. Even so magnificent a lot of books as the sum collection was not considered sufficient to warrant a separate collection.

Now in San Francisco we have what is certainly the seventh, probably the sixth, largest collection of medical literature in America, which has behind it a fund of some \$80,000 or \$100,000, and what is

more important still, it has behind it the library organization of Stanford University. At present one trained librarian is at work cataloguing and a second is being trained for the work. Now this library, its organization and equipment, is open to this Society on very easy terms, and I for one am of the opinion that we would be guilty of gross obliquity should we fail to take advantage of our opportunity. The Stanford trustees, convinced that the best interests of medicine are to be served by centering the intellectual interests of medicine in one building, are prepared to supply to the County Society shelf room for this Society's library and to provide offices and assembly rooms for the Society's meetings at a cost to the Society of about what the rental of such inadequate quarters as these we now occupy would be.

Moreover, this income derived from the Society would be devoted to the purchase of periodicals, and there would be a further saving of money, because money now spent on duplicating periodical files would be saved. Practically all the benefits of such a library consolidation would accrue to members of this Society, for from this membership come by far the greatest number of medical readers. The objection that readers would lose time spent in reaching the neighborhood of Sacramento and Webster streets can be met by the fact that any time so expended will be more than made up by the saving effected by the aid of proper indexing and a trained helpful librarian. However, if the plan to own our own building is accepted and put into effect by the Society, it would still be a good plan to concentrate the libraries.

I would urge that every individual of this Society constitute himself a committee on membership. Let him look into the history of the Society and realize that since the inception of this Society in 1868 the science of medicine has become the great positive force. It is through just such societies as this the enlightenment of mankind and their emancipation from pain have come since Pasteur's day, because men have come together for the exchange of knowledge. The discussion of hypothesis and demonstration of achievement to their common stimulation and to the advancement of their profession. I am proud of the profession to which I belong; proud to be a humble follower of masters who laid down and are laying down the foundation of our art. From Pasteur, contemporary with the foundation of this Society, to Flexner, Ehrlich, Boudet, McKenzie, there is a host of men whose work has been brought here and made more vital and more essential because it came through the detailed experience of our fellow-workers, our comrades and our friends.

Now friends, let me again thank you for the honor you have done me, and in thanking you let me urge that every one in this Society be truly friends, helpful, hearty friends. Let there be no back-biting amongst us. Laymen will have hard enough things to say of us. Let us be ever ready in the defense of our fellow-members and loath to add any bit of scandal or criticism. Let our differences be honest, manly differences, openly and fearlessly expressed always to our opponent. Let us never forget that opposition and enmity are two very different things. Let us keep our indignation righteous and vent it only on those who drag our profession or our manhood into disrepute.

In closing I would quote to you from the first presidential address made to the Society by Dr. Whitney, its first president, in 1868:

"A few weeks ago a gentleman whose qualifications as a regular practitioner no one can question, invited to his residence several members of the profession to consider the propriety of organizing a medical society. Those who responded to that invitation represented the different nationalities of which the profession is here composed. It was unanimously resolved that steps be taken to bring together as large a number of those who are known

or believed to belong to the regular profession here, as possible for the purpose of forming a society."

After two or three preliminary meetings, with increased numbers, it was decided to send a notification to every practitioner in the city believed to be a regular member of the profession. This brought together a sufficient number to divest the meeting of anything like partisanship, and then forthwith proceeded to organize under the name of the "San Francisco Medical Society" by adopting a constitution and by-laws. The code of ethics framed, adopted and recommended by the American Medical Association constitutes the basis of our organization, and to this our constitution and by-laws conform.

This furnished a platform upon which all who are described as regular physicians and surgeons can meet upon terms of equality for mutual recognition and conference, whatever the source of their testimonials.

This Society seeks to secure co-operation among the "regular" members of the profession in San Francisco; and if its meetings are conducted in the right spirit, will be productive of mutual improvement by canvassing results of individual investigation and experience so that the observations of each may thus be made available for the benefit of all. Organized upon such a basis, with such objects in view, let us not only invite facts and observations, but give a cordial welcome to hypotheses in their interpretation.

Secretary's Report.

Mr. President and Members of the Society: As secretary I beg leave to submit the following report for the year 1910, i. e., from the 22nd day of January, when I took charge of this office, to December 10th, inclusive.

Number of members in Society Jan. 22, 1910...	482
Admitted	43
Resigned	9
Transferred to other County Societies.....	6
Died	7
Dropped for non-payment of dues	27
Number members in Society, Dec. 10, 1910.....	476

On going over the records of the Society on January 22, it was noticed that a large number of members were in arrears in their dues, in spite of 30 members having been dropped for that reason during 1909. Notwithstanding our continued efforts to collect all old accounts, as well as the current dues for the year 1910, it was impossible in some 27 instances to do anything but drop these names from the membership roll, thus losing \$789.25. There are now 476 members in good standing; many of them, however, do not seem to realize that dues are payable in advance, but from these members the Society can expect, within a very few weeks, to obtain the \$600 (approximately) still due. The Society is called upon to pay its assessment to the State Medical Society quite promptly, and cannot afford to carry delinquent members on its roll, and for this reason the total count of members is somewhat smaller than in 1907 and 1908, when less than one-half of the members paid their dues, but for whom assessments were nevertheless paid.

In the early part of this year letters were sent to several hundred local physicians, pointing out to them the advantages of membership. Still more recently the profession has again been circularized, with very encouraging results, so that it is believed that with renewed efforts on the part of this office, with the aid of an enthusiastic membership, at least 200 members should be obtained in another year. At this meeting alone eleven new members are to be admitted as proof of my statement.

Financial Statement, January 22 to December 10. Receipts.

Received from Dr. Rixford, treasurer, 1909 (check)	\$1,714.32
--	------------

Received from Dr. O'Neill, secretary.....	316.81
---	--------

Total received (of which \$1027 was 1910 dues)	\$2,031.13
Collected from members and rental of library	5,916.28

Total receipts	\$7,947.41
----------------------	------------

Disbursements.

Rent	\$1,320.00
Cal. State Med. Soc., rent in lieu of ex-changes	180.00
Salary of office assistants, stenographer....	435.00
Salary of assistant librarian to July 15.....	455.00
Old library bills	1,015.30
1910 library bills	562.53
Attorney fees, 1910	125.00
Assessment to State Society	1,900.00
Old bills, printing, salaries, reimbursing Dr. O'Neill	136.68
Old attorney bills	525.00
Incidentals (including printing, stationery, telephone, laundry, supplies, rent of safe deposit box, insurance on library, secretary's bond, taxes, commissions on collections, entertainment, etc).....	794.60

Total	\$7,449.11
Balance on hand	\$ 498.30

There was furthermore received from the treasurer eight \$1000 N. W. Pacific bonds, with accumulating interest thereon amounting to \$600, \$10 of which was deposited in the current fund, from which fund the same amount was drawn last year for relief purposes.

The sum of \$200, representing the July coupons, has been added to this fund, on deposit in the S. F. Savings Union Bank.

As the members will have noted, it has been the aim of this office to keep the members in touch with all the transactions of the Board of Directors, so that the program has naturally increased considerably in its dimensions. In this way we have tried to maintain a greater interest on the part of members in the general welfare and proper status of the Society.

The following is a statement of the amounts collected and checks paid per month:

	Collected Dues.	Checks Paid.
Jan. 22, 1910, received from Drs. O'Neill and Rixford, of which \$1027 are 1910 dues.....	\$2,031.13	
January	150.00	
February	741.80	\$ 962.70
March	391.00	1,468.98
April	536.90	393.75
May	367.00	592.40
June	507.25	255.50
July	1,123.15	723.75
August	633.35	194.10
September	701.33	1,268.35
October	350.50	495.50
November	338.50	597.60
December	75.50	495.48

Totals	\$7,947.41	\$7,449.11
Balance on hand	498.30	

There are still a few outstanding bills to be settled before December 31, and it is probable that their total will not exceed \$300.

RENÉ BINE, Secretary.

Annual Report of the Milk Commission, December 13, 1910.

The Milk Commission has held monthly meetings regularly throughout the year and has issued certificates from month to month to the Ideal Farms at San Anselmo and the Timm Dairy at Dixon. The